



Letter to the Editor

John M. Briley, Jr. MD Maui Medical Group

Pertaining to the Harry L. Arnold Jr. Case of the Month: Eosinophilic Meningitis / Angiostrongyliasis From Eating Aquaculture-raised Snails (Hi Med J, Oct.98, pg. 652).

When I first moved here in 1970, I saw in the ER a toddler with no specific symptoms, but "not feeling well" (a slight headache and stiff neck).

His father, at that time a visiting GP, watched over my shoulder as I performed the LP. What at first it looked to be plastic shavings in the CSF in the plastic collecting tube, turned out to be wiggling. He observed, "fascinating." I, on the other hand, almost fainted.

It turned out they were not the larvae of the round worm, but the adult worms, and the first reported. A public health official and I wrote an article which ended up in some obscure biologic journal (the copy of which I have lost). But it was the first reported case of adult worms being in the CSF. The kid did great after the tap, but I credit him for one of my gray hairs.

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